

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2006
3:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Drobisch, Vice Chair
Linda Little
Joe McGlaughlin
Karen Zaiz

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Snyder, Chairman

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Captain Rick Bright
Carol Reed, Deputy Auditor
Lori Long, Probation
Phil Anello, EMA
Randy Waks, Asst. State's Attorney
Dan Lightner, Planning/Zoning

This meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Drobisch at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Motion made by Linda Little to approve the minutes of January 26, 2006, seconded by Joe McGlaughlin, and motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS

Motion made by Joe McGlaughlin to approve the claims, seconded by Karen Zaiz, and motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Court Services/Probation

Lori Long was present, and said neither Judge Greanias or Don Meyer had anything to report to the committee.

Sheriff's Office

Captain Rick Bright said Deputy Michael Sheffield will be retiring with 22+ years of service, and he is requesting it be put on the board agenda for a presentation at the next board meeting on March 9.

For several years, Captain Bright said the price has not been increased for what is charged to serve tax papers. The \$10 fee has been there as long as he can remember, and postage is now \$4.64 with a \$5.00 return fee on top of that; if we are charging \$10, adding the postage and return fee, we are making less than 50 cents to process the documents. He will probably be taking this to Finance next week to ask for the consideration of an increase to place on the board agenda for the March 9 meeting. He said \$20 is being considered at this point, but it will be narrowed down before going to Finance. He wants the committee to be aware that an increase will be asked for on this specific item.

EMA

Phil Anello said we are approaching severe weather season. The first full week in March will be designated Severe Weather Preparedness Week. There was a Safety Committee meeting this morning, and all the offices were encouraged to check their weather alert radios for back-up batteries, etc.

Phil distributed a flyer in mailboxes regarding the annual severe weather training conducted by the National Weather Service which will be held on March 11 from 9:00 a.m. to noon for storm spotters, emergency personnel, and the public as well. An invitation is extended to all board members and citizens to go through this training. This is the tenth anniversary of our twin tornadoes on April 18 and 19, 1996.

The emergency notification system purchased through our regional homeland security grants is undergoing testing now. The first slate of tests was done this month and it appeared to be working very successfully. Phil said they would continue on the first Tuesday of every month to test different areas of the county to make sure the callback system enabling them to notify the community of any type of hazard they might need specific information on is in place.

Phil sent a letter to everyone on the National Incident Management System and the responsibilities of it. He encourages everyone to review it and the requirements are on their website, www.maconcountyma.org and if anyone has any questions, they should contact Phil.

OLD BUSINESS

Vice Chair Drobisch said he attended the Macon County Criminal Justice Council meeting which is held once a month, and it seems to be moving along very well. They are attempting to try and alleviate some of the jail overcrowding by finding other diverse programs which could be used to divert some of these people. The initial study basically shows we have the “baddest” of the bad who probably should be locked up, but there are a few alternatives out there which the committee is looking into to try and come up with some recommendations. It is taking in all levels of the criminal justice system, so it has an opportunity to review and try to put in place programs or procedures to move people through the system at a quicker pace so the ones who have been convicted and get prison time are not sitting in jail for an inordinate amount of time before getting to the Department of Corrections. Numerous avenues are being explored, and Dave feels it will be a successful program if resources developed out of this are used.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Joe McGlaughlin to adjourn, seconded by Karen Zaiz, and motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Linda Koger
Macon County Board Office